

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09
NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /104 W
-----261133Z 053109 /20

P R 261021Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 460
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS MADRID 4094

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/IBC

LONDON FOR CLAY BLACK AND WALKER DIAMANTI

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, WTO, FT
SUBJECT: WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE

1. DURING MAY 25 WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, WHICH IS CONVEING CONCURRENTLY WITH WTO MAY 23-JUNE 2 ASSEMBLY MEETING AT TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN, JORDAN CABLED OFF-AGENDA PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE ARABIC AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF ORGANIZATION. ALL OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS EXPRESSED AGREEMENT, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, WITH PROPOSAL.

2. U.S. DELEGATE STATED THAT U.S. IN GENERAL OPPOSED PROLIFERATION OF LANGUAGES IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL (THE STATUS OF WTO) AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. REASONS WERE BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE. INTRODUCTION OF EXTRA LANGUAGE IN ANY ORGANIZATION INCREASED FINANCIAL BURDEN FAR BEYOND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF LANGUAGES. ALSO, ADMINISTRATIVE WORLOAD WITH ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
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COMPOUNDED. MAJOR CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE VERY CONCERNED OVER RAPIDLY EXPANDING BUDGETS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND WERE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO BRING THIS PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL. U.S. DELEGATE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE POSITION ON INTRODCUTION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE INTO WTO AS HE HAD

NO INSTRUCTIONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: U.S. DELEGATION REQUESTS
INSTRUCTIONS BY MAY 31 AT LATEST ON POSITION IT
SHOULD TAKE REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC
LANGUAGE AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF WTO. MATTER
WILL CERTAINLY COME UP DURING FINAL PLENARY MEETINGS
OF WTO ASSEMBLY. INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO
AMEMBASSY MADRID ATTENTION LUBKEMAN.

4. COMMENT: INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL
LANGUAGE INTO WTO WILL REQUIRE AMENDMENT OF
STATUTES, WHICH SPECIFY THAT ENGLISH, FRENCH,
SPANISH AND RUSSIAN ARE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.
AMENDMENT OF STATUTES REQUIRES AGREEMENT OF TWO-
THIRDS OF MEMBERSHIP OF WTO. THEREFORE, U.S. AND
LIKE-MINDED MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO
BLOCK THIS EFFORT. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770188-0379
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770515/aaaaammx.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 896f3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2357809
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY: INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC LANGUAGE
TAGS: AORG, FT, WTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/896f3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009